

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A cradle for accepting a portable communications device (PCD), the PCD for normally being in radio communication with a first network, the cradle for coupling the accepted PCD to the first network by way of a second network when the PCD is out of radio communication with the first network, the PCD including an externally accessible port from which communications data is accessible, the cradle being sized to accept the PCD and comprising:
- 10 a port connector for coupling with the externally accessible port of the accepted PCD;
- a network connector for coupling the cradle and by extension the PCD to the second network; and
- a network communications device for interfacing between the port connector and the network connector.
- 15 2. The cradle of claim 1 wherein the network communications device is a modem.
3. The cradle of claim 1 wherein the network communications device is a network interface card.
4. The cradle of claim 1 wherein the network connector is for coupling to a public switched telephone network.
- 20 5. The cradle of claim 1 wherein the network connector is for coupling to a mobile switching network.
6. The cradle of claim 1 wherein the externally accessible port of the

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